

giving an account of what he had perused. The members generally took the name of their favorite author. The wits have not spared the Academy; they call it the *Hotel des Invalides de la Littérature*, because once elected, the members work no more. It is one of the few French institutions that has resisted the leveling work of the Revolution. It was momentarily suppressed by the convention of 1792, as being aristocratic, but was soon restored.

Napoleon III. would have given a few of his fingers to have been elected an Immortal, but Lucien was the only member of the Bonapartist dynasty who obtained a fauteuil. Those real celebrities who were never chosen, are said to be occupants of the forty-first fauteuil. This imaginary arm-chair is also popularly reserved for distinguished blue-stockings. Beranger declined the honor of being an Immortal, in a song, considering that would be a reflection on his dignity. Dumas pere was excluded, on account of his debts; Le Sage, because he married a carpenter's daughter; Moliere because he was an actor; Scarron because he was a cripple; Bayle because he was too busy with other matters; Pascal because he was a recluse; Descartes because an absentee; J. "B." Rousseau, because he wrote an obscene poem; and P. "J." Rousseau "the genius of bitter tears," because a kind of wild man of the woods. The non-elected, however, can always console themselves with Piron's epitaph, which stated: "Here lies Piron who was nothing; not even an Academician." Some years ago a Greek gentleman was very indignant at the Immortals because they declined to purchase the original grounds of the Academy at Athens, with Plato's holding thrown in. Sarah Bernhardt is admitted to be the best "Dame aux Camelias" that has yet appeared; in trying to make the repentant and phthisical demi-mondian lovely in death, she is matchless.

The late hurricane was terrible in its effects on chimney pots and eaves. Some of the latter were whisked as if old hats. The overturning of the telegraph poles decides the question in favor of underground wires. Perhaps the severest sufferers are the masqueraders who attended the Opera ball. The majority of these nined their character costumes, leaving their ordinary clothes, and a deposit of money in the old clo' shop, where they make up. The hurricane carried away several head dresses and garments, the rain doing the rest; the holders of the securities declined to accept the damaged costumes, so not a few merry maskers to the surprise of their friends, are still dressed as princess, bandits, dry nurses, rajahs and niggers.

A valet has been found dead after atrocious suffering; he purchased a pomade to "rub on his back to cure a cancer in the jaw;" the medicament was a kind of essence of purgatory. Three scoundrels devoid of pocket money, killed an old scavengeress and took her purse, containing two francs. A wife has been acquitted for throwing vitriol in the face of the charmer who seduced her husband. A mother during a dinner party in a restaurant, was suckling her infant; she was joked about its quietness; on examination it was dead—from cerebral congestion. Latest originality: a small print has opened a subscription for the Mahdi.

"Hello! my boy, you have no more white hair?" "Of course not, that is only suitable when one is young."

FOREIGN NEWS.

The Oceanic Steamship Company's steamer Mariposa, Captain Howard, arrived on Saturday afternoon from San Francisco, bringing dates to the 1st instant. The following are the principal foreign news items:

London, February 17th.—A dispatch from Cairo says: "General Gordon has arrived at Khartoum. He has had a proclamation posted at Khartoum recognizing El Mahdi as Sultan of Kordofan, remitting half of the taxes and placing no restriction on the slave trade. The Arabs of Khartoum express great satisfaction." The *Times* says that the proclamation as regards slavery means that his present mission has nothing to do with slaves, and not that he desires to encourage slavery.

Egyptian soldiers presented to the Khedive an address protesting against the dispatch of Egyptians to the Sudan, and demanding the removal of British military officers, who, they said, were aliens by race and by religion. General Sir Evelyn Wood was immediately summoned to the palace, and on his arrival confronted the mutineers, who were then and there arrested. The incident is considered to be of very grave import, especially following the departure of the British troops from Cairo for Soukkin.

In reply to a question by the Marquis of Salisbury, Earl Granville, Foreign Secretary of State, stated that General Gordon's proclamation allowing the restoration of the slave trade in the Sudan, was not exactly the same as it as it had been published by the newspapers. General Gordon would make no arrangement which would operate in the interest of the slave trade.

In the debate in the House of Commons on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion ensuring the government, Mr. W. T. Marriott, liberal, member for Brighton, made a violent attack against the government, accusing it of vacillation and inconsistency. He declared that the government had lost the confidence of the country and of the liberal party. The truth of this he would test by voting for Sir Stafford Northcote's motion, and then resigning his seat in the House, and offering himself for re-election. Mr. Marriott's speech was received with loud cheers by the opposition. The division was then taken on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion, and the motion was defeated by a vote of 311 to 262.

Although the Irish party at the supposed crisis threw their whole vote, which they themselves said amounted to 34 on the side of the conservatives, the government obtained a majority of 49 in a House numbering 573. Both sides brought every available man to the division. The result of the division was received by the liberal members with prolonged and enthusiastic cheering.

China's Imperial Council has decided to defend Baotinh to the uttermost.

Mr. Bradlaugh has been re-elected member of parliament for Northampton.

It is now intended to report the Morrison Tariff Bill to the House about the 1st of March. Congress passed an additional appropriation of \$200,000 for the Ohio flood sufferers.

A movement has been started among several officers at Washington to erect a suitable monument to the memory of the officers and seamen of the *Jeanette*.

The German Sanitary Commission sent Egypt and India by the Imperial Board of Health to study the nature, cause, etc., of cholera, has forwarded a report from Calcutta. The commission discovered cholera germs in a water tank in Calcutta, and found in a suburban village where cholera made its appearance the same microscopic organism which had been discovered in the lower intestines of cholera victims in Egypt.

London, February 29th.—Information has been lodged with the police that an attempt to blow up the Law Courts with dynamite was imminent. They have arrested three men and seized a large quantity of dynamite discovered in a house in Clare Market, near the Strand.

In the Commons several Parnellites severely condemned the dynamite proceedings, and declared no excuse valid for such attempts upon life and property. They declared that conspiracies of this nature are in no wise associated with the Irish cause, but are hatched in America, and the attempts to carry them out have been made by agents sent from the United States.

Advices from Haiphong say that French gunboats, with 1,000 men, have occupied the extreme post of the rebels on the Songkoi river, ten miles below Baotinh. Chinese skirmishers were firing from the neighboring heights and burning the surrounding villages, the gunboats returning the fire. According to the latest reports, 40,000 Chinese had returned to Baotinh. Salmi Morse has committed suicide.

New York, February 20th.—Inquiry among the prominent sugar refiners in this city this morning as to the statement that a syndicate had been formed of Eastern and California capitalists, for the purpose of competing with Claus Spreckels, elicited the following replies: Secretary Searles of the Havemeyer Sugar Refining Company, said: "I don't believe the report. I am in a position to know. Negotiations of a similar character have been carried on between myself and parties on the Pacific Slope for some time, but have not come to a head." At Mattieson & Wiecher's a member of the firm said: "I have heard nothing about it; it may be true, nevertheless. Spreckels has a powerful monopoly, and makes his own terms." At Havemeyers & Elders, one of the largest firms in this city, the senior partner said he had heard nothing of the report.

Orders have been cabled by the British Government to English detectives at New York to inquire into the character and antecedents of all persons sailing from New York and Boston for English ports since February 1st.

The English Government has decided to send a courteous dispatch to America relative to the actions of Americans in countenancing and assisting the dynamiters.

The elegant ferry steamer Sausalito, owned by the North Pacific Coast Railroad Company, was completely destroyed by fire at San Quentin, on the 24th Feb. The fire started at about half-past seven and was first seen by the deck hands. The flames were then issuing from the hold under the forward stairway. The alarm was quickly given, but it was too late to save anything, as almost immediately the lower deck was one mass of flames. Captain Brooks, the collector on the boat, was in his room, off the cabin, in the after part of the boat, when he heard the cry of fire. He rushed into the cabin, but found his egress to the lower deck cut off, and had to make his escape from the side of the wheelhouse. To prevent the fire communicating to the wharf the steamer was cut off from her moorings and allowed to drift, as it was impossible to save her. A young man, name unknown, who ran the bootblack stand, was asleep in the fore-castle, and the fire spread with such rapidity that was impossible to get to him and he perished in the flames. When the fire was first discovered Captain Brooks, William McLain, the porter, four deck-hands and the bootblack were aboard, and had it happened one hour later, the loss of life would have been greater, as all of the above slept on the boat and were in the habit of retiring early. The burned steamer cost about \$125,000 six years ago in the East, when she was brought over-land in sections, together with a companion boat, the *San Rafael*, but has seen about two year's active service.

A severe wind storm struck the eastern portion of Columbus, Georgia, February 19th, doing damage to the extent of \$20,000. The cyclone came from the southwest, and passed above the city until near the eastern limits, when it descended and unroofed the First African Baptist Church and damaged the walls, and also unroofed the County Jail and the Columbus Oil Mills. The storm extended to Rome, Georgia, at that place doing little damage. At Cave Spring Captain Lapsley's house was blown down and his sister-in-law was buried under it, and is supposed to have been killed. Ten or twelve houses in that vicinity were destroyed.

Washington, February 20th.—Shortly before the expiration of the morning hour in the Senate to-day Gibson's resolution, notifying the Hawaiian Government that the United States desired to terminate reciprocity relations with that country, was reached on the calendar. The resolution was accompanied by an adverse report by the Committee on Foreign Relations, and as soon as the title had been read Senator Miller moved that the resolution be indefinitely postponed. Senator Sherman interposed an objection, saying he wished to make it a special order for some afternoon, in order to permit members to debate on the subject of terminating treaty relations with the Hawaiians. He said he intended to make a speech upon the resolution, and hinted that he was in favor of its adoption. Senator Miller at once withdrew his motion, and the morning hour having expired, the matter went over.

Washington, February 18.—Senator Miller gave the handsomest private dinner of the season to-night in honor of President Arthur. The President and Mrs. Miller sat at one end of the table and Senator Miller and Mrs. McElroy at the other. The other guests were the British Minister and Miss West, the Russian Minister and Madame De Struve, Mr. and Mrs. Blaine, Representative and Mrs. Cartier, Representative and Mrs. Morrill, Senator Butler, the Postmaster-General and Mrs. Gresham, General Beale, Miss McMullin, and Miss Dora Miller.

The dynamite discovered at Charing Cross and Paddington stations was labeled "Atlas Powder." Both clocks were American make. A copy of the New York *Sun*, dated February 6, 1884, was in the valise at Paddington station.

Captain W. A. Kirkland, United States Navy, has been selected to command the Greeley relief expedition, and will probably be assigned to that duty.

Mr. Henry Watterson proposes the passage of a law by Congress for the protection against thievery of news as published by the newspaper press.

The British Government has tendered the steamer *Alert* to the Greeley relief expedition, and she will be used as a supply vessel.

The heirs of Mr. Delmonico propose changing their name from Crist to Crist-Delmonico, to perpetuate the family name in connection with the restaurant business.

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5—Life and Annuity Funds.....3,855,329

6—Revenue Fire Branch.....1,107,124

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OF HAMBURG.

Capital of the Company & Reserve.....5,830,000

Reichsmark.....5,830,000

Capital of their Re-Insurance Companies.....35,000,000

Total.....Reichsmark 45,830,000

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